



Florida House of Representatives

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE CHOOSES CANNON AS SPEAKER-DESIGNATE FOR 2010-2012

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The House Republican Conference today unanimously chose Representative Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) as Speaker-designate for the current legislative term.

“We are fortunate to have a strong, humble, genuine leader at the helm, ready to guide the House into the next decade,” stated Representative Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) who seconded Representative Cannon’s nomination for Speaker-designate. “Dean is a model public servant. He is a serious man – cognizant of the vast weight our decisions carry, understanding that what we say and do here impacts the lives of millions.”

“I have complete confidence in Representative Cannon because in the performance of his legislative duties, he has demonstrated a keen and insightful mind, the integrity of purpose and the quality of perseverance,” stated Representative William Proctor (R-St. Augustine) who nominated Cannon as Speaker-designate.

Today’s ceremony concludes the Speaker-designation process in preparation for the 2010-2012 term. Cannon’s selection means that he will succeed current Speaker pro tempore Larry Cretul (R- Ocala) as Speaker of the House after the November 2010 elections. Cretul will be named Speaker of the House tomorrow morning when the 2009 Regular Legislative Session convenes.

In remarks to the Conference after his election, Cannon spoke of Florida’s past and the similarities to the state’s current situation:

“The road we are traveling down today, we have traveled down before. If you read accounts of the housing bubble of the 1920s, you will come to believe there are no new problems, just old mistakes.

(more)

“But history only repeats itself when we fail to heed its warnings and learn its lessons – and so we stand here today- not so much at a moment of great crisis--but at a moment of great opportunity.”

Cannon also spoke of the challenges facing Florida’s economy and the state budget this year:

“I would respectfully suggest that just as excessive borrowing and rampant spending by the private sector created a crisis, it is foolish to believe that excessive borrowing and rampant spending by the public sector will get us out of it.”

Speaking directly to House members, Cannon described their role in helping Floridians recover in these tough economic times:

“[We must] extend our hand and help those who are down to pull themselves up, so they can dust themselves off and continue on their journey under their own power.

“Because that concept is at the core of who we are as a Republican Conference. We are the party of individual opportunity. We believe that each person is the best judge of his or her own needs and desires; and that each person deserves the respect of being responsible for his or her own decisions. We believe all people have a right to live their lives in freedom and to pursue their dreams and aspirations regardless of whether they are a 5th generation Florida native, or a person stepping on Florida’s soil for the very first time, or an unborn child.”

Cannon was joined on the House floor by his wife, Ellen, and their three children, his mother and father, Ginger and Roy Cannon of Lakeland, his in-laws Kathie and Charles Friedley of Winter Park and his 91-year old Grandmother, Althea Cannon of Plant City.

First elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2004, Representative Cannon is currently the Chairman of the Select Policy Council on Strategic & Economic Planning and serves on the House Office of Reapportionment, House Policy Council and the House Rules & Calendar Council. Representative Cannon is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Law.

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